



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

September 2, 2005

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ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVIST PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTACKS ON WISCONSIN FARMS

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Peter Daniel Young, DOB: 6/27/1977, originally of Mercer Island, Washington, pleaded guilty today to two counts of animal enterprise terrorism in U.S. District Court in Madison. U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen L. Crocker scheduled sentencing for November 8, 2005.

Young faces a maximum penalty on each count of one year in prison, a fine up to \$100,000, a \$25 special assessment, a one-year period of supervised release and the entry of an appropriate restitution order. Animal enterprise terrorism prohibits traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of disrupting animal enterprises if the disruption results in economic damage of more than \$10,000.

In September 1998, Peter D. Young and Justin C. Samuel were indicted by a grand jury sitting in Western District of Wisconsin, for their actions in releasing thousands of mink from three Wisconsin farms in late 1997.

At the plea hearing, Young admitted the following facts. In October 1997, Young and Samuel set out on a cross-country journey to attack fur farms and release livestock

with the intent to free the mink and cause significant economic damage to the farms. Samuel and Young carried dark clothing and masks, along with bolt cutters and a copy of a list of addresses of mid-western farms that raise animals for fur production. This list of fur farms was produced by a national animal rights terrorist organization known as the Animal Liberation Front. The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for at least one of the attacks committed by Samuel and Young. During their travel cross-country, Samuel and Young attacked mink farms in three states - South Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin, one of the largest mink producing states in the country.

Young's co-conspirator, Justin Samuel, was a fugitive until September 1999, when he was arrested in Belgium. The United States extradited Samuel from Belgium to Wisconsin to face charges for the terrorist activity. Samuel pleaded guilty in 2000 and was sentenced to 24 months in prison, one-year of supervised release, and \$364,106 in restitution to be made to farmers victimized by the cross-country spree to release mink from mink farms in the Midwest. Samuel's conviction was the first in the United States under the animal enterprise terrorism statute.

In 2002, the United States Congress made Animal Enterprise Terrorism a felony offense when it increased the penalties to a maximum of three years in prison. In 1997, however, the crime was a misdemeanor, and Young may only be sentenced under the penalties in effect at the time he committed the attacks.

Peter Young remained a fugitive, sought by the federal government for the past seven years. He was apprehended by local police in San Jose, California in March,

while shoplifting music CDs. Young was using an alias and false identification at the time of his arrest.

The charges against Peter Daniel Young were the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the assistance of numerous state and local law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin, South Dakota, Iowa, Washington, California, and Virginia. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Anderson.

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